

Message Text

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PAGE 01 IAEA V 05008 060949Z

44
ACTION SCI-06

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R 060850Z JUN 74
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INFO AEC GERMANTOWN
AMEMBASSY BERN
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USMISSION GENEVA
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C O N F I D E N T I A L IAEA VIENNA 5008

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, SZ
SUBJ: SWISS RATIFICATION OF NPT

1. PROFESSOR CLAUDE ZANGGER, SWISS GOVERNOR ON THE IAEA BOARD, WAS IN VIENNA BRIEFLY JUNE 4-5 AND REPORTED TO MISSION FOLLOWING NEW DEVELOPMENTS ON POSSIBLE SWISS RATIFICATION OF NPT. ZANGGER SAID FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD SUBMITTED PROPOSAL FAVORING INITIATION OF RATIFICATION PROCESS TO FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. THIS WOULD, HE THOUGHT, RECEIVE FAVORABLE ACTION AND BE SUBMITTED TO PARLIAMENT BY END OF JUNE. ASSUMING FAVORABLE PARLIAMENTARY ACTION AND DECISION NOT TO REQUIRE NATIONAL REFERENDUM ON THE ISSUE, HE EXPECTED RATIFICATION PROCESS TO BE COMPLETED BY END 1974.

2. REFERENDUM ISSUE WAS STILL IN DOUBT PENDING LEGAL OPINION. IF REFERENDUM WERE REQUIRED, THIS WOULD REQUIRE THREE TO SIX MONTHS AFTER PARLIAMENTARY ACTION.

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PAGE 02 IAEA V 05008 060949Z

3. ZANGGER STATED THAT DESIRE TO PARTICIPATE IN NPT CONFERENCE IN MAY 1975 WAS MOST IMMEDIATE REASON FOR MOVING AHEAD NOW. HE ALSO IMPLIED THAT ONE OF UNDERLYING MOTIVATIONS WAS REACTION TO INDIA NUCLEAR EXPLOSION, BUT AT THE SAME TIME HE WARNED THAT INDIAN EXPLOSION MIGHT STRENGTHEN RESISTANCE OF HARD-LINERS WHO ARE OPPOSED TO SWISS RATIFICATION OF NPT.

4. IN COMMENTING ON OUTLOOK FOR RATIFICATION, ZANGGER STATED ONE OF THE MAIN SIGNIFICANT FACTORS WOULD BE JUDGMENT SWISS MADE WITH RESPECT TO CREDIBILITY OF INTERNATIONAL SAFEGUARDS ADMINISTERED BY IAEA. IN THIS CONNECTION HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR CONTINUED US SUPPORT BOTH IN A TECHNICAL AND POLITICAL SENSE OF IAEA SAFEGUARDS PROGRAM. VHE FELT THIS WOULD HAVE CONSIDERABLE WEIGHT IN INFLUENCING SWISS OPINION. ZANGGER WAS ALSO DEEPLY CONCERNED AT THE EFFECT OF THE INDIAN EXPLOSION IN ENCOURAGING FURTHER PROLIFERATION. IN FACT THE PURPOSE OF HIS TRIP WAS TO CONSULT WITH OTHER NUCLEAR EXPORTING STATES ON THE EFFECT OF THE INDIAN ACTION AND WHAT SHOULD BE DONE ABOUT IT. A POSSIBLE MEASURE OF SWISS INTEREST AND CONCERN WAS EMBODIED IN ZANGGER'S COMMITMENT TO VERIFY WHETHER SWISS-MADE EQUIPMENT, E.G. PUMPS, HAD BEEN ORDERED BY INDIA FOR USE IN THE MADRAS REACTORS OR OTHER NON-SAFEGUARDED FACILITIES IN INDIA. THIS COMMITMENT WAS MADE IN AN INFORMAL MEETING CHAIRED BY THE CANADIAN AMBASSADOR.

5. ZANGGER ALSO EXPRESSED SWISS EAGERNESS TO CONCLUDE THE WORK OF THE SO-CALLED ZANGGER COMMITTEE (WHICH HE CHAIRS) AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, ABOVE ALL BECAUSE OF THE POLITICAL EFFECT THIS WOULD HAVE IN PROVIDING A PUBLIC AND TIMELY RESPONSE BY THE WESTERN NUCLEAR EXPORTING STATES TO THE INDIAN NUCLEAR EXPLOSION. TAPE

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